

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

A. On page 8, line 24, through page 9, lines 25 of the initial application (which is paragraphs [0027] through [0038] of Pub. No. 2004/0244340):

FIG. 2C ~~provides a composite series of views illustrating~~ illustrates an embodiment of my invention intended for use on a vehicle seat.

FIG. 2D ~~provides a composite series of views illustrating~~ illustrates an embodiment of my invention intended for use on motorcycles, snow mobiles, and other vehicles with tandem seating.

FIG. 2E illustrates an embodiment of my invention intended for use on a vehicle seat.

FIG. 2F illustrates an embodiment of my invention intended for use on motorcycles, snow mobiles, and other vehicles with tandem seating.

FIG. 2G provides a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of my invention intended for use on motorcycles, snow mobiles, and other vehicles with tandem seating.

FIG. 3A provides a perspective view of an embodiment for use as a bareback saddle having a forward hand-hold formed by a connector bridging the animal's withers.

FIG. 3B provides further detail with regard to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3A.

FIG. 3C provides further detail with regard to the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 3A.

FIG. 3D provides a side view of an embodiment with an expanded skirt holding side inflatable members.

FIG. 3E provides an out-side view providing further detail with regard to the strap embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1H.

FIG. 3F provides an in-side view providing further detail with regard to the strap embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1H.

FIG. 3G provides a cross-sectional view providing further detail with regard to the strap embodiment illustrated in FIG. 1H.

FIG. 3H provides a cross-sectional view taken through 3H—3H of FIG. 3C.

FIG. 3I provides a detailed perspective view of the structural reinforcement fork illustrated in FIG. 3C.

FIG. 4A provides a cross-sectional view of a proportional valve, while perspective details therefrom providing perspective views illustrating two indicator arrangements therefor.

FIG. 4B provides a cross-sectional view of an ordinary valve suitable for use with this invention.

FIG. 4C provides a cross-sectional view of another proportional valve.

FIG. 4D provides details related to the proportionate valve illustrated in FIG. 4C.

FIG. 4E provides details related to the proportionate valve illustrated in FIG. 4C.

FIG. 4F provides details related to the proportionate valve illustrated in FIG. 4C.

FIG. 4G provides details related to the proportionate valve illustrated in FIG. 4C.

FIG. 4H provides details related to the proportionate valve illustrated in FIG. 4C.

FIG. 4I provides a cross-sectional view taken through 4I—4I of FIG. 4H.

FIG. 4J provides a cross-sectional view taken through 4J—4J of FIG. 4G.

FIG. 5A ~~provides a composite series of views illustrating~~ illustrates an embodiment of my invention adapted for use in padding the interface between a person and a prosthetic device.

FIG. 5B provides a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of my invention adapted for use in padding the interface between a person and a prosthetic device.

FIG. 5C provides an un-wrapped view of an embodiment of my invention adapted for use in padding the interface between a person and a prosthetic device.

FIG. 6 provides an exploded perspective view of my invention illustrating a preferred construction thereof.

B. On page 12, line 14, through page 12, line 29 of the initial application (which is paragraph [0045] of Pub. No. 2004/0244340):

An important subcategory covers bareback riding pads, including bareback riding pads for use by handicapped persons. As illustrated in FIGS. 1D through 1G and FIGS. 3A through 3D, a bareback pad requires the addition of means—such as a strap 62 of the type shown in FIG. 1H—to hold it in position on the horse. It can use a circingle with the circingle held in place by a reinforcing strip 52 as shown in FIG. 3B. Optionally, it can be provided with some point of attachment such as an aperture 63 or a “D” ring 64 for use with an existing strap. It can also have a connector 70 adapted to bridge the animal’s withers and serve as a hand-hold. Connector 70 can be advantageously provided with a handle 71 between the connector and the top connection and/or and a reinforcement member 72 for further support. Bareback pads can also be advantageously provided with stirrups 73. In another important subcategory, an expanded skirt 74 with optional forward shape 74A is added. This expanded skirt 74 holds side inflatable members 300 adapted for placement adjacent lower sides of the load-bearing animal. This can be important in therapeutic riding endeavors with handicapped, spastic, or emotionally disturbed riders, who often kick the sides of the horse in an uncontrolled or random manner.

C. On page 12, line 30, through page 13, line 25 of the initial application (which is paragraph [0046] of Pub. No. 2004/0244340):

In other embodiments, at least one inflatable member 20 is adapted to pad an interface between a human and an object. Where the object is a seat, fasteners are provided for affixing the inflatable member 20 to the seat. A first example is illustrated in FIGS. 2A and 2B, where my invention is configured as a seat pad 65 for a rider with the addition of means to hold it in

position on a saddle or seat. Such means can take the form of a strap or loop 66 that can fasten around the horn of a saddle and an elastic cantle attachment 67 for fastening at the rear of the saddle. (In this option, an inflatable member can be used to form a single butt pad for use with or without other such members.) For seats with backs, as illustrated in FIGS. 2C and 2E, two inflatable members can be used: A lower inflatable member 200 adapted for placement between the seat 205 and the human resting on that seat 205; and a back inflatable member 201 adapted for placement between a back of the human and a back 206 of seat 205. The back inflatable member 201 can be adapted to serve as a lumbar support. In these embodiments as in those set forth above, a receiving structure 202 can be provided that is adapted to hold the inflatable members in correct position with respect to said seat 205, with straps 206A, cords or straps with hooks and/or loops 205A and/or standard shock cords 207 for use in fastening the receiving structure to a seat. Typically, the inflatable member(s) and/or the receiving structures therefor will be shaped and adapted to cover areas appropriate to a particular type of seat such as one of a saddle, a vehicle seat, a motorcycle seat and/or some other type of seat. Thus, another example is provided in FIGS. 2D, 2F and 2G, illustrating embodiments for use with a motorcycle or other vehicle with tandem seating. In the particular embodiment illustrated, where the vehicle rider has an operator's seat 210 and a separate, elevated passenger seat 211, two different pads are provided, an operator's seat pad 212 and a passenger's seat pad 213. These can be provided with loops 212A, 213A for attachment by, e.g., a shock cord 207, and can also be advantageously constructed using the types of non-slip surface materials 212B and core materials 212C taught elsewhere herein. As illustrated in FIGS. 5A, 5B and 5C, embodiments 501 adapted to pad the interface between a human limb ~~300~~ 500 and a prosthetic ~~301~~ 502 are also possible. In this case, the prosthetic pad ~~302~~ 501 has fasteners 503 adapted for affixing its at least one inflatable member (501) in position with respect to said prosthetic ~~301~~ 502 by, e.g., matching Velcro fasteners 504 on prosthetic 502. Prosthetic pad 501 also has interfacing means, such as Velcro fasteners 505, 506 for wrapping back and fastening onto itself to form a cylindrical shape as illustrated in FIGS. 5A and 5B.

D. On page 13, line 26, through page 14, line 17 of the initial application (which is paragraph [0047] of Pub. No. 2004/0244340):

More details on construction design are provided in FIG. 6, an exploded view provides details regarding the preferred use of vinyl trim 601, binding 602, sections of 1/8 inch felt with polyester mesh coating 603 and 608, Velcro 604 and 607, 1/4 inch felt 605, and 2 inch reinforcement straps 606. However, in ~~in~~ whatever manner my invention is constructed, it is advantageous to use proportionate valves 28A for valves 28. A proportionate valve 28A can be a spring-loaded valve of the type illustrated in FIGS. 4A, 4C and 4D through 4J. An ordinary valve 48 as illustrated in FIG. 4B has a valve body 80 with a threaded portion 80A on which is mounted a rotating member, screw cap 81. The valve 28 is not adjustable; it can merely be opened or closed by turning screw cap 81. A proportionate valve 28A can, however, be adjusted to different degrees of tightness by rotation of modified screw cap 81'. This is made possible by the inclusion of a biasing spring 82 in proportionate valve 28A and other modifications thereto as shown in FIGS. ~~4B~~ 4A, 4C and 4D through 4J. At its tightest setting, only a heavy load (or rider) will be sufficient to displace the spring-biased plug 83 and allow air to escape. At its lightest setting, the moderate pressure exerted on the air pad by a light load (or rider) will accomplish this result. Detailed perspective views illustrating a line-up indicator 90 arrangement and illustrating a window 91 scale in FIG. 4A show two manners in which settings for proportionate valve 28A can be made. FIGS. 4C and 4D through 4J illustrate an embodiment having four snap members 84 that snap into two indents 85 when modified screw cap 81' is turned. Modified screw cap 81' has an upper part 81A and a lower part 81B attached by screw-threaded portion 80A to a valve body 80 with an O-ring 80B. The snap indent members 84 of this embodiment not only acts as an indicator of pressure setting, but help to stabilize and prevent undesired rotation of the rotating member/screw cap 81' for this embodiment. They thereby stabilize and prevent unintended change in the pressure setting for the proportionate valve 28A.